Replacement

1. Tirtol
2. Dharamgarh
3. Muniguda
4. Bytnoti
5. Tomando
6. Chandaka
7. Kansabahal
8. Tihidi
9. Niali
10. Tangi
11. Kusupur
12. Govindapur
13. Hindol
14. Champua
15. Tyruvally
16. Kotpad
17. Borigumma
18. Bissamcuttack
19. Joshipur
20. Chandanpur
21. Sargipalli

Waiting list for telephones in the cities of Hyderabad, Madras, Patna and Lucknow

912. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest waiting list for telephones in the cities of Hyderabad, Madras, Patna and Lucknow as on 31st December, 1989; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Waiting list as on 31st December, 1989 is as under:

Hyderabad—48721
Madras—58869
Patna—6910
Lucknow—8594.

(b) The eighth five year plan proposals have been formulated with a view to contain the waiting period by the end of the plan to an average of one year for exchanges with more than 5000 lines. Accordingly in the cities of Hyderabad, Madras, Patna and Lucknow, the present waiting list will be cleared progressively during Eighth Five Year Plan subject to the availability of resources and approval of plan.

Insurgency in N.E. Region

913. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific efforts are being made to resolve the problem of insurgency in Manipur, Assam and other States of the North East region; and

(b) the details of incidents of insurgency in each of these States during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): The efforts made/being made are given below:

(a) The whole of Manipur has been declared as disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 by the State Government and a 5 km. belt along the Myanmar (Burma) border in Nagaland, Tirap and Changlang Districts of Arunachal Pradesh has been declared as disturbed area by the Central Government with a view to enabling army to undertake counter—insurgency operations there. Some areas on Assam-Nagaland border have also been declared as disturbed by the Government of Assam. Meitei extremist organisations namely, Peoples Liberation Army, Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, Kangleipak Communist Party and United National Liberation

Front have been declared as unlawful by the Central Government under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The State Government of Assam have prepared an 'Action Plan' for dealing with the activities of United Liberation Front of Assam. The Central Government have provided Central Forces to the State Governments.

(b) The details of incidents of insurgency during the last 3 months (from February to April, 1990) in the States affected by the activities of extremists are given below:

Name of the State	No. of Incidents	Persons Killed
Assam	27	16
Nagaland	7	2
Manipur	8	1

Arrest of Anand Margis in Punjab

914. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Anand Marg activists have been arrested in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suresh Kumar, resident of Anand Nagar, District Purulia, West Bengal and Ravinder Singh Yadav, resident of Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh were apprehended by BSF authorities on 14th April, 1990 in district Amritsar, Punjab while they were carrying a suitcase. The suitcase contained unauthorised fire arms. The two individuals alongwith the seized weapons were handed over to the police. A criminal case has been registered.

Telephone charges in India

915. SHRI MENDAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the constantly rising telephone charges in India are contrary to what is happening overseas;

(b) what are the reasons for the high costs of telephones and their use;

(c) whether the new technology has not been properly utilised to make calls cheaper;

(d) what steps are likely to be taken to provide better concessions during non-peak hours for the use of phones; and

(e) whether the public is being victimised by this monopoly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The telephone charges depend on a number of factors, such as cost of equipment, cost of power and operative and maintenance costs including the cost of input materials and staff expenses.

It may also be mentioned that the charges for telephones in India are lower than those in many countries.

(b) The major portion of telephone network is analogue. Large number of electro-mechanical exchanges are in service. These exchanges require larger maintenance effort both in terms of manpower and interms of spares.

Though the number of telephones which was less than 80,000 at the time